

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Vandermer. Those rejections are obviated by the current amendment to claim 1 and its dependencies. Vandermer teaches a unitary plastic holder for steel wool or other scouring pads, and is therefore optimized in shape to protect the entire palm, but leave open the backs of the fingers and thumb. The teachings are therefore inconsistent with amended claim 1, which recites "pocket sized and dimensioned to receive substantially an entirety of four finders of an adult human hand".

35 USC § 103

Claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 were rejected under 25 USC 103 as being obvious over Vandermer and Chesterton or Jones. It is submitted that those claims are allowable as being dependent on allowable claim 1.

Other Prior Art

Edwards (US 342341, May 1886) contemplates finger tongs, which again do not receive substantially an entirety of four finders of an adult human hand. The same is true for Kaufman (US 3331626, July 1967), and Koffler (US 1990553, Feb. 1935), which do not protect the proximal carpals of the fingers.

Other references provide right or left-handed gloves, which are not ambidextrous, see e.g., Jensen (US 2069449, Feb. 1937).

Still other references teach pockets that are not unitary construction, see e.g., Jones (US 3407927, Oct. 1968), and Kyoda (JP App. no. JP05002740, Jan. 1993), which teaches joined pockets comprising laminated polyethylene film and oil absorbing fabric.

The various tong type apparatus are quite rigid, e.g., Fleishman (US 3848906, Nov. 1974).

No New Matter

Amendment of the claims herein does not introduce any new matter. "Opposing matching pockets" is shown in the various drawing sheets. "Each pocket sized and dimensioned to receive substantially an entirety of four finders of an adult human hand" is also shown in the various drawing sheets. "Entire utensil comprising a continuous molded piece" is taught at specification paragraphs 22 and 23. Color coding is in specification para. 27

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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